Agitation against outflow of crude oil from Assam

773. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an agitation has been launched recently by the frontal organisations of the ruling party in Assam, against outflow of crude oil from the State or Barauni and other refineries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Central Government have accepted the demand of the Assam agitations on the crude out-flow issue; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It has been clarified to the Government of Assam that the loop pipeline of OIL is meant to augment pipeline capacity for regular supply of crude oil to the refineries at Guwahati and Bongaigaon, and no additional crude oil is proposed to be transported through this pipeline to refineries outside the State.

Payment of wages to employees of HMT Watch Factory, Srinagar

774. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees of HMT Watch Factory in Srinagar have not been paid wages since April, 1990;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Unit has been closed down without giving necessary notice of lock-out; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for keeping the unit closed and what action has been initiated against the Undertaking for violating statutory rules regarding payment of subsistence allowances and other dues to its employees?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Due to the prevailing situation in the valley and for ensuring the safety of its employees, the HMT's plant at Srinagar had to be closed temporarily from 14.4.1990. Salary was given for all the days, including the curfew days, to employees who were available at Srinagar till 14.4.1990. There was no lock-out in the plant which has since re-opened from 21.6.1990. For the period from April to June, 1990, each employee now available in the plant for work had been paid a certain amount as an immediate relief.

Manufacturing of Bio-gas plants by Khadi Industries Commission

775. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Khadi and Village Industries Commission has been assigned the job of manufacturing bio-gas plants;

(b) if so, how many such plants have been manufactured by the KVIC so far;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted about the efficiency of these plants; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps are being taken to improved these plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES & AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) Yes, Sir. KVIC has been implementing the Bio-gas programme from the year 1962-63.

(b) 1,68,267 Bio-gas plants have been set up by KVIC in the country upto March, 1989. In addition 19,681 plants (provisional) have been installed during 1989-90.

(c) Yes, Sir. A departmental sample survey of Bio-gas plants installed during 1986-87 was conducted by KVIC.

(d) Remedial measures have been taken for extending technical assistance for non-working plants to put them in operation.